IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims. Please amend claims 1, 12, 19, 21 and 25-29 and cancel claims 2, 3 and 33 as follows:

Claim 1.   (currently amended) A software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system comprising:

a software controller for controlling use of a software product at a user device; and

a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network;

wherein the software controller is adapted for

- allowing said use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server,

- enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller, and

- supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another said software controller;

and wherein the licence management server is adapted for

- supplying via the network to the software controller a new data token, to replace the current data token and having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token, received from the software controller, ~~and~~

- detecting if a said token received from the software controller for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence management server,

- detecting if the same data token is received twice for exchange,

- storing a token identifier corresponding to each data token received by the server for exchange, and

- comparing the token identifier for each received data token with the stored token identifiers to detect if the same data token is received twice for exchange;

   wherein the exchange token is a copy of the current data token.

   Claims 2-3.   (canceled)

   Claim 4.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the token identifier for a data token comprises that data token.

   Claim 5.   (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system is adapted such that the use periods associated with alternate data tokens in a chain of data tokens

received by the software controller from the licence management server do not overlap.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

an exchange period is associated with each data token; and

the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a current data token, can be obtained by the software controller only during the exchange period associated with that current data token.

Claim 7. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the use period and exchange period associated with a data token overlap.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the software controller is adapted for enabling user access to said exchange token by supplying the exchange token for storage by the user.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the software controller is adapted for enabling user access to said exchange token by storing the exchange token at a back-up storage location and supplying access data, for accessing the exchange token at said storage location, to the user.

Claim 10. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the licence management server is adapted for supplying a new data token in exchange for a received token only if the received token does not correspond to a token already exchanged.

Claim 11. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the licence management server is adapted for supplying a new data token in exchange for a received token before detecting if the received token corresponds to a token already exchanged.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system comprising:

a software controller for controlling use of a software product at a user device; and

a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network;

wherein the software controller is adapted for

- allowing said use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server,

- receiving an exchange token associated with said licence, and

- supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server (51) to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current

data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the software controller in the absence of a current data token;

and wherein the licence management server is adapted for

- storing the use period for each data token supplied to the software controller under the licence, and

- supplying via the network to the software controller a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received from the software controller, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein a said data token comprises a coin.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the use period associated with a data token is indicated in the data token.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the software controller is adapted for supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token automatically to the licence management server to extend the licence for the software product.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein:

an exchange period is associated with each data token; and

the system is adapted such that a new data token, to replace a current data token, can be obtained by the software controller only during the exchange period associated with that current data token.

Claim 17.   (previously presented)   A system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the exchange period associated with a data token is indicated in the data token.

Claim 18.   (previously presented)   A system as claimed in claim 12 wherein:

a said data token represents a licence to use a plurality of software products; and

the software controller is adapted for storing product data, indicative of said plurality of software products, at a back-up storage location, and allowing use of each of the software products substantially only during the use period associated with the current data token supplied by the licence management server.

Claim 19.   (currently amended)   A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the product data comprises, for each software product, data representing an individual licence (LSP) for that software product.

Claim 20.   (previously presented)   A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the product data comprises the software products.

Claim 21.   (currently amended)   A software controller for use in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system having a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the software controller comprises control logic for controlling use of a software product at a user device, the control logic being adapted for:

allowing said use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server;

enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another said software controller; and

supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another said software controller;

wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 22. (previously presented) A licence management server for use with a software controller as claimed in claim 21 in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the licence management server comprising control logic adapted for:

communicating with the software controller via a data communications network;

supplying via the network to the software controller a new data token, to replace the current data token and having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token, received from the software controller; and

detecting if a said token received from the software controller for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence management server.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A software controller for use in a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system having a licence management server for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the software controller comprises control logic for controlling use of a software product at a user device, the control logic being adapted for:

allowing said use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the software controller by the licence management server;

receiving an exchange token associated with said licence; and

supplying one of the current data token and the exchange
token via the network to the licence management server to be
exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the
software product beyond the use period associated with a current
data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if
a said exchange token is received by the software controller in
the absence of a current data token.

Claim 24.   (previously presented) A licence management
server for use with a software controller as claimed in claim 23
in a software licence management system in which a licence to
use a software product is represented by a data token, the
licence management server comprising control logic adapted for:

communicating with the software controller via a data
communications network;

storing the use period for each data token supplied to the
software controller under the licence; and

supplying via the network to the software controller a new
data token in exchange for a current data token, or said
exchange token, received from the software controller, the new
data token having a new use period which does not overlap the
use period of a data token previously-supplied under the
licence.

Claim 25.   (currently amended) A computer program product
stored on a computer readable medium, comprising computer
readable program means for causing a computer to perform aA
computer program for controlling use of a software product at a
user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data
token, the user device being connectable to a licence management

server via a data communications network, the computer program comprising program code means adapted to:

allow use of the software product at the user device substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;

enable user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another user device; and

supply one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another user device;

wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 26. (currently amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform aA computer program for use in a licence management server of a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system including a software controller as claimed in claim 21 and the licence management server being adapted for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network,

wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management server to:

supply via the network to the software controller a new data token, to replace the current data token and having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token, received by the licence management server from the software controller; and

detect if a said token received from the software controller for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence management server.

Claim 27.   (currently amended) <u>A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a</u>A computer program for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, the computer program comprising program code means adapted to:

allow use of the software product at the user device substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;

receive an exchange token associated with said licence; and

supply one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a

said exchange token is received by the user device in the absence of a current data token.

Claim 28. (currently amended) A computer program product stored on a computer readable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform aA computer program for use in a licence management server of a software licence management system in which a licence to use a software product is represented by a data token, the system including a software controller as claimed in claim 23 and the licence management server being adapted for communicating with the software controller via a data communications network, wherein the computer program comprises program code means adapted to cause the licence management server to:

store the use period for each data token supplied to the software controller under the licence; and

supply via the network to the software controller a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received by the licence management server from the software controller, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence.

Claim 29. (currently amended) A method for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, wherein the method comprises, at the user device:

allowing use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server;

enabling user access to an exchange token, dependent on the current data token supplied by the licence management server, whereby the exchange token can be supplied as a current data token to another user device; and

supplying one of the current data token and the exchange token via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token to replace the current data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if the current data token is an exchange token from another user device;

wherein said use of the software product is not allowed if the current data token is an exchange token.

Claim 30. (previously presented) A method for operation of a licence management server of a software licence management system, in which system use of a software product at a user device is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 29, the method for operation of the licence management server comprising:

supplying via the network to the user device a new data token, to replace the current data token and having a new use period associated therewith, in exchange for a current data token, or an exchange token corresponding to the current data token, received from the user device; and

detecting if a said token received from the user device for exchange corresponds to a token already exchanged by the licence management server.

Claim 31. (previously presented) A method for controlling use of a software product at a user device in accordance with a licence represented by a data token, the user device being connectable to a licence management server via a data communications network, wherein the method comprises, at the user device:

allowing use of the software product substantially only during a use period associated with a current data token supplied to the user device by the licence management server; and

supplying one of the current data token and an exchange token, associated with said licence, via the network to the licence management server to be exchanged for a new data token (a) to extend the licence for the software product beyond the use period associated with a current data token supplied by the licence management server and (b) if a said exchange token is received by the user device in the absence of a current data token.

Claim 32. (previously presented) A method for operation of a licence management server of a software licence management system, in which system use of a software product at a user device is controlled by a method as claimed in claim 31, the method for operation of the licence management server comprising:

storing the use period for each data token supplied to the user device under the licence; and

supplying via the network to the user device a new data token in exchange for a current data token, or said exchange token, received from the user device, the new data token having a new use period which does not overlap the use period of a data token previously-supplied under the licence.

Claim 33.   (canceled)